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LAMBS ON FEED

A conversation between Marvin M. Sandstrom, Agricultural Marketing Service, and Wallace L. Kadderly, Radio Service, Broadcast in the Department of Agriculture's portion of the National Farm and Home Hour, Friday, October 13, 1939, over the NBC Blue Network.

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KADDERLY:

Yesterday we gave you a report from the Agricultural Marketing Service, indicating that the number of cattle to be fed for market during the winter and spring of 1939-40 is expected to be somewhat larger than the number on feed a year earlier. Less than 1 hour ago the Agricultural Marketing Service issued a report on the lamb feeding situation. Marvin Sandstrom is here with this lambs-on-feed report -- and will boil it down for us. All right, Sandy --

SANDSTROM:

More lambs will be fed during the 1939-40 feeding season than were fed last year. A decrease in feeding is indicated for the Western States, but this decrease will only partly offset the increases elsewhere.

KADDERLY:

That for the country as a whole. Now let's break that down into the various sections of the country. What about the Corn Belt States?

SANDSTROM:

Farmers in the Corn Belt will feed a much larger number of lambs than they fed last year. Shipments -- through stockyards -- for the past three months were nearly a fourth larger than last year, and the largest since 1934. Direct shipments were larger too. The records from some of the Corn Belt States show these shipments nearly three-fourths larger than in the same months last year. We estimate that from 600,000 to 700,000 more feeder sheep and lambs were shipped into the Corn Belt the past 3 months than were shipped during this period last year.

KADDERLY:

And are these heavy shipments expected to continue, Sandy?

SANDSTROM:

No, probably not. They'll probably be larger than they were last year, but the increase over last year is not expected to be as large from October through December as the increase during the past 3 months. The heavy early movement into the Corn Belt was caused largely by the rather poor condition of ranges over a large portion of the Western region.

KADDERLY:

So much for the Corn Belt. Next -- the feeding of lambs in the Western areas. You mentioned a decrease there.

(over)

SANDSTROM:

For the Western States region as a whole, yes.-- fewer lambs will be fed this year. A survey in Colorado early in October indicated that the number of lambs fed in the principal areas of that State would be not only smaller than last year but might be the smallest since 1927. A sharp reduction is also expected in the Scottsbluff area. Scottsbluff, you know, is that important feeding area in Nebraska and Wyoming. California is the only Western State where more lambs may be fed than last year.

KADDERLY:

Sandy, many Texas lambs often move up to wheat pastures in the Great Plains area, for feeding during the winter. Will this be the case this year?

SANDSTROM:

No, Wallace. A good many lambs from Texas and New Mexico would have been moved to wheat pastures this fall, if such pastures had been available. But it highly probable that only a little winter wheat pasture will be found this year in the Great Plains area from Nebraska to Texas. Lacking this pasture outlet it is probable that most of these Texas and New Mexico lambs will be shipped to feed lots. But whether they will go to the Corn Belt or to the Western States is still uncertain.

KADDERLY:

Farm and Home friends, Marvin Sandstrom of the Agricultural Marketing Service has given us this summary of early information on the lamb feeding situation. He'll have a more complete report for us at this time next month.

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